

REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed January 11, 2006 should be withdrawn because the Notice fails to indicate any grounds of noncompliance under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, for the Amendment (G) filed October 14, 2005.

On the Notice continuation sheet, the Examiner asserts that Amendment G was not compliant because “Applicant did not indicate any part in the Specification corresponding to the amendment of [claims 17-19].” 37 C.F.R. 1.121, however, does not include any such requirements. Rule 1.121 deals exclusively with the manner and format of amendments to the claims, and does not require Applicants to substantively discuss where support for particular amendments may be found within the Specification. The Examiner has not stated a valid reason under 37 C.F.R. 1.121 for refusing to enter Amendment G.

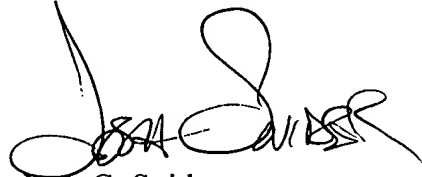
If the Examiner is having difficulty correlating the relevant portions of the Specification with the recent claim amendments, an appropriate course of action would have been to telephone Applicants’ representative. If the Examiner believed that there was no support for the new amendments, the Examiner could have rejected claims 17-19 under Section 112 in a new Office Action. The Examiner should be able to see, however, that the same respective drawings and text are applicable to amended claims 17-19 as have already been considered by the Examiner with respect to these claims as they originally appeared. Accordingly, Amendment G was fully compliant with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, and there is no valid basis for maintaining the outstanding Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment.

Applicants therefore request a formal notification from the Patent Office indicating that the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment has been withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh C. Snider", written over a horizontal line.

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